ing the Bokaro and Rourkela Steel Plants of the Steel Authority of India;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to clear the proposal; and

(c) the amount earmarked for modernising the above two Steel Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c)

ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

Approval in principle has been accorded for the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant. Phase-I of Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation project has already been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 415 crores in July, 1988. The proposal for sanction of Phase-II is under the consideration of Government.

BOKARO STEEL PLANT

An agreement has been entered into between SAIL and M/s. Tiajpromexport of USSR in October, 1988, for preparation of the Detailed Project Report for modernisation-cum-expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant. The proposal will be considered for an investment decision when the Detailed Project Report is finalised and estimates worked out.

Committee to study the problems of the farmers

*266. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently set up a Committee to study the problems of farmers and to come up with solutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

जहाजपुर (राजस्थान) में एक टी० वी० ट्रांसमीटर का स्थापित किया जाना

*267. **श्री सन्तोष बागड़ोदिया :** क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार जहाजपुर (राजस्थान) में एक टी० वी० ट्रांसमीटर स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है ; और

(घ) इस टी० वी० ट्रांसमीटर के कब तक चालू किए जाने की संभावना है ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री एच० के० एल० भगत) : (क) से (घ) राजस्थान के भीलवाड़ा जिले में जहाजपुर नामक स्थान पर दूरदर्शन ट्रांसमीटर लगाने के लिए समय-समय पर अनुरोध प्राप्त हुए हैं । इस समय बूंदी में 10 किलोवाट का एक उच्च शक्ति ट्रांसमीटर लगाया जा रहा है जो 1991 में चालू हो जाएगा । आशा है इस ट्रांसमीटर से जहाजपुर अच्छी तरह से कवर हो जाएगा ।

Number of Employment Exchanges in the country

*268. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31st March, 1989;

(b) the number of such Employment Exchanges located in the Urban areas and the number of those located in the Rural areas; and

(c) whether the number of such Exchanges in the Rural areas is less than

the number of such Exchanges in the urban areas; if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to bring the number of such exchanges in the rural areas at par with that in the urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) There were 841 Employment Exchanges (including University Employment Information and Guidance Bureaux) in the country as on 31st March, 1989.

(b) and (c) Most of the Employment Exchanges cater to both urban and rural areas irrespective of their location.

Number of Unemployed persons in the country

*269. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons as on 31st December of 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and March 31st, 1989;

(b) the date when the practice began to strike-off those names from the employment registers, who did not seek renewal each year and whether every person (registered in the live registers) has informed of this new practice so that he or she could seek for renewal if he or she wished to continue his or her name there;

(c) whether this practice brings down the total estimated number of the unemployed; if so, what is their number;

(d) whether the placement number of about 388.5 thousand in 1985 came down to about 328.5 thousand in 1988; if so what it was on 31st March, 1989; and

(e) the reasons for the fall in placements since *1985?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) The number of persons registered at the Employment Exchanges in the Country, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, is given below:

	(In lakhs)
As on 31st December	
1985	262.70
1986	301.31
1987	302.47
1988	300.50
As on 31.3.1989	303.05

(b) With effect from 1-1-1984, the renewal period is 3 years and as such the registrants are not required to renew their registration every year. The registration is liable to be cancelled if it is not renewed in time. In the Identity Card issued to the registered candidates, the next date when renewal is due is indicated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The number of placement during January-March 1989 was 69.1 thousand.

(e) Placements by Employment Exchanges depend, inter-alia, on the number of vacancies notified to them.

Amendment in Provident Fund Act

*270. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to make some amendments to the Provident Fund Act to make it more stringent enabling the attachment of the personal property of the directors of a company defaulting in the payment of the Provident Fund in order to recover the defaulted amount and to render its non-payment a non-bailable offence and for setting up special courts for the speedy disposal of default cases, etc;